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ABSTRACT

Based on the experience of two early childhood teachers in a research-based collaborative effort to join a preschool class with a first-second grade class for various learning projects, this book offers a model for an approach to early childhood curriculum. The curriculum integrates art, science, gardening, celebrations, intergenerational program involvement, community service projects, and human rights study. A major focus of the curriculum is on multiple literacies: content, social, community, humanitarian, and pedagogical. Incorporating a year's worth of ideas, suggestions, survival tips, and vignettes, the book shows how "buddy study" time nurtures literacy in the traditional and broader sense, emphasizing humanitarian qualities of respectfulness, kindness, compassion, and responsibility. The book uses a train metaphor for the journey involved in this emerging curriculum; the chapters are: (1) "Journey on a High-Speed Train: Content Literacy"; (2) "Down in the Dining Car: Social Literacy"; (3) "All Aboard: Community Literacy"; (4) "Toward a Landscape of Kindness: Humanitarian Literacy"; and (5) "Tenders of the Fire: Pedagogical Literacy." (Contains 38 references and 17 books about autism including children's titles.) (KB)

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